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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/764,302	01/19/2001	Tadao Tsuchimura	1046.1235/JDH	6751

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, LE V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2174

DATE MAILED: 01/11/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/764,302	Applicant(s) TSUCHIMURA ET AL.	
	Examiner Le Nguyen	Art Unit 2174	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 June 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to an amendment filed 6/29/04.
2. Claims 1-54 are pending in this application; and, claims 1, 9, 12, 14, 15, 19, 27, 30, 32, 33, 37, 45, 46, 48 and 50-52 are independent claims.
3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, 14-16, 19, 21, 22, 24-27, 32-34, 37, 39, 40, 42-45 and 50-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mills et al. ("Mills").

As per claim 1, Mills teaches an information display system comprising:

a display unit including a plurality of display areas into which a predetermined area is divided (figs. 2-4a);

an operation unit indicating an item of information to be displayed in each of the display areas (figs. 4(a-b); col. 6, lines 3-29; col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5; *user selects information to be displayed in each of the display areas via an operation unit/mouse*);

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an acquiring unit acquiring the specified item of information; and a control unit having the acquired information displayed in the corresponding display area (figs. 4(a-b); col. 6, lines 3-29; col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5).

As per claim 3, Mills teaches an information display system comprising a history storing module storing display histories of items of information displayed wherein the items of information stored as the display histories are displayed in a predetermined order in the respective display areas (fig. 2; col. 4, line 47 through col. 5, line 25).

As per claim 4, Mills teaches an information display system wherein when a first item of information displayed in a first display area is related to a second item of information, and when giving an indication of displaying the second item of information, the second item of information is displayed in a second display area while keeping the display of the first item of information in the first display area (fig. 2; col. 4, line 47 through col. 5, line 25).

As per claim 6, Mills teaches an information display system wherein the display unit displays identifying information for identifying the display area, the control unit when the identifying information corresponding to the display area is specified through the operation unit, enlarges the display area corresponding to the identifying information and displays only the single display area (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5; *the control unit detects user's selection via the operation unit/mouse and enlarges the display area corresponding to the identifying information/thumbnail and displays only the frame corresponding to the thumbnail*).

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As per claim 7, Mills teaches an information display system wherein the identifying information is displayed within the display area identified by the identifying information when the operation unit detects an indicating operation with respect to the identifying information, the display area corresponding to the identifying information is enlarged (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5).

As per claim 8, Mills teaches an information display system wherein when the operation unit detects an indication operation with respect to the identifying information, the enlarged single display area is changed into a plurality of display areas (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5).

As per claim 9, Mills teaches an information display system comprising:

a display unit displaying a turn object which includes an indicator, indicating any one piece of identifying information among pieces of identifying information arranged along substantially a circumferential shape, turning about the center of the circumferential shape (figs. 2-4a; col. 5, lines 36-45; *a turn object, an object that has direction/course- changing capabilities such as turn object 26, with arrow(s)/indicator indicating information arranged along a circumferential shape, boundary line or length of such a boundary; the indicator turning/to change direction or course about the center of the boundary line*);

a detection unit detecting an operation of the operation unit with respect to the turn object; and a control unit turning the indicator in accordance with the detected operation (figs. 2-4a; col. 5, lines 36-45; *upon detecting an operation with respect to the turn object, the indicator is displayed to reflect this movement/or turn*).

As per claim 14, Mills teaches an information display system comprising:

a display unit displaying an object including an indicator for indicating any one piece of identifying information among plural pieces of identifying information (figs. 2-4a; col. 5, lines 36-45; *a turn object, an object that has direction/course- changing capabilities such as turn object 26, with arrow(s)/indicator indicating information arranged along a circumferential shape, boundary line or length of such a boundary; the indicator turning/to change direction or course about the center of the boundary line*);

a detection unit detecting a content of an indication operation of an operation unit with respect to the object and a control unit changing the indication of identifying information indicated by the indicator in accordance with the detected content of the indicating operation (figs. 2-4a; col. 5, lines 36-45; *upon detecting an operation with respect to the turn object, displaying the information corresponding to the identifying information indicated in a position to which the indicator is turned, i.e. the control unit detects the operation of the mouse/operation unit and displays the information such as the preceding row of windows corresponding to the identifying information, an up direction, indicated in a position to which the up arrow/indicator is turned*).

As per claim 15, Mills teaches an information display system comprising:

a display unit displaying an object displayed on a screen and serving as an operation target (figs. 2-4b); and

a control unit detecting an indicating operation with an operation unit with respect to the object, and changing a display mode of displaying the object on the display unit in accordance with the indicating operation thereof, wherein the object is moved and

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displayed in a second display position by the indicating operation with respect to the object displayed in a first display position (figs. 4(a-b); col. 6, lines 3-29; col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5).

As per claim 16, Mills teaches an information display system wherein the operation unit is a mouse, and the indication is a click on the object (figs. 8 and 10-11; col. 8, line 66 through col. 9, line 43).

Claims 19 and 37 individually are similar in scope to claim 1 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 21 and 39 individually are similar in scope to claim 3 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 22 and 40 individually are similar in scope to claim 4 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 24 and 42 individually are similar in scope to claim 6 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 25, Mills teaches a storage medium readable by a machine tangible embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine, the method steps comprising displaying the identifying information within the display area identified by the identifying information, and, when detecting an indicating operation with respect to the identifying information, enlarging the single display area corresponding to the identifying information (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5).

As per claim 26, Mills teaches a storage medium readable by a machine tangible embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine, when detecting an

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indication operation with respect to the identifying information, the enlarged single display area is changed into a plurality of display areas (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5).

Claims 27 and 45 are individually similar in scope to claim 9 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 32 and 50 individually are similar in scope to claim 14 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 33 and 51 individually are similar in scope to claim 15 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 34 and 52 individually are similar in scope to claim 16 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 43, Mills teaches an information display method comprising displaying the identifying information is displayed within the display area identified by the identifying information, and, when detecting an indicating operation with respect to the identifying information, enlarging the single display area corresponding to the identifying information (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5).

As per claim 44, Mills teaches an information display method wherein when detecting an indication operation with respect to the identifying information, the enlarged single display area is changed into a plurality of display areas (col. 8, line 52 through col. 9, line 5).

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6. Claims 2, 12, 13, 20, 30, 31, 38, 48 and 49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mills et al. ("Mills") in view of Kraus et al. ("Kraus").

As per claim 2, although Mills teaches an information display system wherein the acquiring unit includes loading information from a video source (col. 3, lines 60-65), Mills does not explicitly disclose the information being loaded from a network. Kraus teaches an information display system comprising downloading data from a network (col. 3, lines 20-44). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Kraus' teaching of information being downloaded from a network to Mills teaching of information being loaded from a video source in order to provide users with an additional source to be utilized.

As per claim 12, Mills teaches an information display system comprising:

a display unit displaying the information obtained (figs. 2-4a);

a control unit displaying, in a display area the information from loading a video source (col. 3, lines 60-65) wherein the display unit includes a display area for displaying the information (figs. 2-4a) and a turn object having an indicator indicating any one piece of identifying information among pieces of identifying information arranged along substantially a circumferential shape, turning about the center of the circumferential shape (figs. 2-4a; col. 5, lines 36-45; *a turn object, an object that has direction/course- changing capabilities such as turn object 26, with arrow(s)/indicator indicating information arranged along a circumferential shape, boundary line or length of such a boundary; the indicator turning/to change direction or course about the center of the boundary line*), and the control unit detects an operation of the operation unit with

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respect to the turn object and displays the information corresponding to the identifying information indicated in a position to which the indicator is turned (figs. 2-4a; col. 5, lines 36-45; *upon detecting an operation with respect to the turn object, displaying the information corresponding to the identifying information indicated in a position to which the indicator is turned, i.e. the control unit detects the operation of the mouse/operation unit and displays the information such as the preceding row of windows corresponding to the identifying information, an up direction, indicated in a position to which the up arrow/indicator is turned*). Mills does not explicitly disclose the information being loaded from a network. Kraus teaches an information display system comprising downloading data from a network (col. 3, lines 20-44). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Kraus' teaching of information being downloaded from a network to Mills teaching of information being loaded from a video source in order to provide users with an additional source to be utilized.

As per claim 13, the modified Mills teaches an information display system wherein the turn object has pieces of information arranged along the substantially circumferential shape and each including a plurality of display areas into which a predetermined area is divided with plural items of information are displayed in the divided display areas (Mills: figs. 2-4a; col. 5, lines 36-45) and when the indicator is turned to the position of indicating the information representing the number of divisions, the display area is divided by this number of divisions, and plural items of information are displayed in the divided display areas (Mills: col. 5, lines 39-42).

Claims 20 and 38 individually are similar in scope to claim 2 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 30 and 48 individually are similar in scope to claim 12 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 31 and 49 individually are similar in scope to claim 13 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

7. Claims 5, 23 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mills et al. ("Mills") in view of Duncan et al. ("Duncan").

As per claim 5, Mills teaches an information display system wherein the first item of information is related to the second item of information by a sequential relationship and when a frame is dragged and dropped to the second display area, the second item of information is displayed, Mills does not explicitly disclose the first item of information is related to the second item of information by use of a specified keyword. Duncan teaches an information display system wherein the first item of information is related to the second item of information by use of a specified keyword and upon the keyword being dragged and dropped to the second display area, the second item of information is displayed (Abstract; figs. 2(a-b); col. 5, lines 19-34; *keywords such as editor "B", editor "C", etc.*). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include Duncan's teaching of the first item of information being related to the second item of information by use of a specified keyword to Mills teaching of the first item of information being related to the second item of information by a sequential

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relationship in order to provide users with a more extensive description, one that includes textual descriptions along with the pictorial description it describes.

Claims 23 and 41 individually are similar in scope to claim 5 and are therefore rejected under similar rationale.

8. Claims 17-18, 35-36 and 53-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mills et al. ("Mills", US 6,667,751 B1).

As per claims 17 and 18, Mills teaches all the features of claim 15 and also an information display system wherein the operation unit is a mouse, and the indication is a click on the object (figs. 8 and 10-11; col. 8, line 66 through col. 9, line 43). Mills does not explicitly disclose the operation unit being a touch panel, and the indicating operation is one-touch operation on the object or a remote controller having a push button and the indicating operation is a pushing operation on the push button. Official Notice is taken that the use of a touch panel with one-touch operation(s) on the object for indicating and a remote controller having push buttons for indicating and the indicating operation is a pushing operation on the push button are well known in the art and would be considered art equivalents of mice as an operation unit. Therefore, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to include the use of a touch panel or remote control as a unit of operation to Mill's mouse/unit of operation in order to provide users with an implementation preference.

Claims 35 and 36, in combination, is similar in scope to the combination of claims 17 and 18 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Claims 53 and 54, in combination, is similar in scope to the combination of claims 17 and 18 and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 10, 11, 28, 29, 46 and 47 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art made of record fails to anticipate or make obvious the claimed invention. Specifically, the prior art fails to teach in combination with the independent claim:

said operation unit is a pointing device having at least two pieces of buttons, and said indicator turns counterclockwise by depressing said first button and turns clockwise by depressing said second button as recited in claims 10, 28 and 46.

Although Mills teaches a substantial amount of the claimed matters, Mills fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious. Other prior art made of record such as Kraus and Duncan are also silent on this claim limitation.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kaply (US 6,215,490 B1) teaches a task window navigation method and system.

Goldenberg et al. (US 6,636,197 B1) teach a haptic feedback effects for control, knobs and other interface devices.

Terashima (US 6,515,689) teaches a control apparatus.

Driskell (US 5,596,699) teaches a linear-viewing/radial-selection graphic for menu display.

Perttunen (US 6,359,635 B1) teaches methods, articles and apparatus for visibly representing information and for providing an input interface.

Anderson et al. (US 5,828,360) teach an apparatus for the interactive handling of objects.

Easty et al. (US 6,448,987 B1) teach a GUI for a digital content delivery system using circular menus.

Westerink et al. (US 5,684,511) teach a consumer apparatus provided with a programming system by means of a form-filling type display.

Kilmer et al. (US 6,078,326) teach a system and method providing centricity user environment.

Buxton et al. (US 6,118,427) teach a GUI with optimal transparency thresholds for maximizing user performance and system efficiency.

Selker (US 6,549,219 B2) teaches pie menu GUI.

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Goh (US 5,678,015) teach 4-dimensional GUI.

Mackinlay et al. (US 5,689,287) teach a context-preserving display system using a perspective sheet.

Pietropaolo et al. (US 6,351,765 B1) teach a nonlinear video editing system.

Weinberg et al. (US 5,974,572) teach a software system and methods for generating a load test using a server access log.

Venolia (US 6,366,303 B1) teaches a zooming controller.

Inquires

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Lê Nguyen whose telephone number is **(571) 272-4068**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (703) 308-0640.

The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703) 872-9306 [Official Communication]

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

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